

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
additional information generating means for
generating additional information;
- 5 adding means for adding the additional information
to image data to generate information-added data; and
encrypting means for encrypting the
information-added data to make it difficult to detect
that the additional information is added.
- 10 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
encrypting means encrypts the information-added data to
make it difficult to detect a position where the
additional information is added.
- 15 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
encrypting means adds key information for specifying an
encryption method to the encrypted information-added
data.
- 20 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said
encrypting means encrypts the information-added data by
randomly arranging the data.
5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said
encrypting means arranges the information-added data on
the basis of a predetermined random pattern.
- 25 6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the
key information is information for specifying the random
pattern.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising transmitting means for transmitting the image data encrypted by said encrypting means to a connected image forming apparatus.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the
5 additional information includes first information for specifying the image forming apparatus.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first information is notified from the image forming apparatus.

10 10. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes second information associated with a processing environment for the image data.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the
15 second information includes information for specifying the image processing apparatus.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the information for specifying the image processing apparatus includes a network ID of the image processing
20 apparatus.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the network ID is acquired in accordance with a type of network to which the image processing apparatus is connected.

25 14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the information for specifying the image processing apparatus include a user ID of the image processing

apparatus.

15. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second information includes processing date information of the image data.

5 16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data is color image data made of a plurality of color components, and said adding means adds the additional information to data of a predetermined color component of the color image data.

10 17. An image processing method comprising:
the additional information generating step of generating additional information;
the adding step of adding the additional information to image data to generate information-added
15 data; and

the encrypting step of encrypting the information-added data to make it difficult to detect that the additional information is added.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein in the
20 encrypting step, the information-added data is encrypted to make it difficult to detect a position where the additional information is added.

19. An image processing system having an image processing apparatus connected to an image forming
25 apparatus,
said image processing apparatus including additional information generating means for

TOP SECRET//
REF ID: A62390

generating additional information,
adding means for adding the additional information
to image data to generate information-added data,
encrypting means for encrypting the
5 information-added data to make it difficult to detect
that the additional information is added, and
transmitting means for transmitting the encrypted
image data to said image forming apparatus, and
said image forming apparatus including
10 receiving means for receiving the encrypted data
transmitted from said image processing apparatus,
decrypting means for obtaining the
information-added data by decrypting the received
encrypted data, and
15 image forming means for forming a visible image on
the basis of the decrypted information-added data.

20. The system according to claim 20, wherein said
encrypting means encrypts the information-added data to
make it difficult to detect a position where the
20 additional information is added.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein
said encrypting means adds key information for
specifying an encryption method to the encrypted
information-added data, and
25 said decrypting means decrypts the encrypted data
on the basis of the key information added by said
encrypting means.

22. A program which is executed on a computer to make the computer operate as an image processing apparatus, the program including:

a code for the additional information generating
5 step of generating additional information;

a code for the adding step of adding the additional information to image data to generate information-added data; and

a code for the encrypting step of encrypting the
10 information-added data to make it difficult to detect that the additional information is added.

23. A storage medium storing the program defined in claim 22.